

REMARKS

The proposed amendments to claim 16 improves antecedent basis. No new matter has been added.

The Final Office Action of July 2, 2010, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, 17, 25 through 28, and 33 through 38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 25 through 28, and 33 through 38 stand rejected. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, and 17 are allowed. Claims 14 and 16 are objected to.

Applicant proposes to amend claim 16, and to cancel claims 16, 25 through 28, and 33 through 38, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as proposed to be amended herein.

Claim Objections

Claims 14 and 16 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 16 has been canceled, rendering the objection thereto moot. The Examiner has objected to claim 14 as failing to further limit the subject matter of claim 1. *Final Office Action*, p. 2. Claim 14, as proposed to be amended herein, recites that the method of claim 1 “further [comprises] removing material from an upper surface of the buffer material while laterally recessing the at least one side wall of the buffer material. Since the proposed amendments to claim 1 place claim 14 in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments be entered and that claim 14 be allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejections

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185 to Tsai et al., in View of U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584 to Lancaster

Claims 25 through 27, 33 through 35, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185), in view of Lancaster (U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584).

Each of these claims has been canceled, thus, rendering this ground of rejection moot.

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185 to Tsai et al., in View of U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584 to Lancaster, and Further in View of the Argument as Stated in the Office Action of January 11, 2010

Claim 38 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185), in view of Lancaster (U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584), as applied to claims 25 through 27, 33 through 35, and 37 above, and further in view of the argument as stated in the Office Action of January 11, 2010.

It is respectfully requested that this ground of rejection is moot, since claim 38 has been canceled.

Obviousness Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185 to Tsai et al., in View of U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584 to Lancaster, and Further in View of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,082 to Lee

Claims 25 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,185), in view of Lancaster (U.S. Patent No. 4,835,584), as applied to claims 25 through 27, 33 through 35, and 37 above, and further in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,297,082).

Claims 25 and 36 have been canceled, thus, rendering this ground of rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 15, and 17 are allowed subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. In view of the proposed amendments to claim 14, and the proposed cancelation of claims 16, 25 through 28, and 33 through 38, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments to claim 14 above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search. Finally, if the Examiner determines that the amendments do not place the application in condition for allowance, entry is respectfully requested upon filing of a Notice of Appeal herein.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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